

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for grasping tissue, comprising:
a tubular member having at a distal end of a distal tip an annular surface
surrounding a terminal port; and
at least one barb formed on the annular surface and projecting at an angle from the annular surface of the tubular member, each at least one barb having a sharp edge configured to insert into the tissue without penetrating through the tissue as the tubular member is rotated about a longitudinal axis.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one barb includes a plurality of barbs spaced around the annular surface.
3. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein the plurality of barbs are unidirectional with respect to one another.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the tubular member comprises a cannula.
5. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the annular surface is a blunt surface with the barbs projecting at an angle from the annular surface.
6. (Cancelled)

7. (Withdrawn) A device for grasping tissue, comprising:
a tubular member having at a distal tip an annular surface surrounding a terminal port;

a plurality of barbs each having a sharp edge projecting at an angle from the annular surface of the tubular member;

a first lateral port formed in an external wall surface of the tubular member adjacent to the annular surface; and

a second lateral port formed in an external wall surface of the tubular member and spaced away from the annular surface.

8. (Currently Amended) A device for grasping tissue, the device comprising:
a cannula having at a distal end of a distal tip an annular surface surrounding a terminal port; and

a plurality of sharp-edged barbs formed on the annular surface and projecting at an angle from the annular surface of the cannula and configured to grasp tissue without puncturing through the tissue when the cannula is rotated about a longitudinal axis.

9. (Original) The device of claim 8 wherein the barbs are unidirectional.

10. (Original) The device of claim 9 wherein the angle at which the barbs project from the annular surface is an acute angle.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) An epidural grasping device, comprising:
a cannula having at a distal tip an annular surface surrounding a terminal port;
a plurality of barbs each projecting a sharp edge at an angle from the annular surface of the cannula;

a first lateral port formed in an external wall surface of the cannula adjacent to the annular surface; and

a second lateral port formed in an external wall surface of the cannula and spaced away from the annular surface.

13. (Withdrawn) The epidural grasping device of claim 12 wherein the sharp edges of the barbs are structured to engage tissue presented at the annular surface of the cannula by rotation of the cannula about a longitudinal axis.

14.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling an object, comprising:
a shaft having at a distal end a distal tip with an annular surface formed thereon;

and

at least one projection formed on the annular surface to extend from the annular surface, the at least one projection configured to hold the object without puncturing through the object when the shaft is rotated in a first direction about a longitudinal axis of the shaft.

25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24, wherein the at least one projection is configured to release the object when the shaft is rotated in a second direction about the longitudinal axis of the shaft.

26.-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, wherein the at least one projection is formed at an acute angle to the shaft.

30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24, wherein the at least one projection comprises a plurality of projections formed to be unidirectional with respect to one another.

31. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2824, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of projections are formed to be unidirectional with respect to one another.

32. (Currently Amended) A grasping device, comprising:
a planar surface at a distal end of a distal tip of the device having at least one barb formed thereon, the at least one barb configured to engage material without puncturing through the material when the device is rotated and to enable control over the material when the material is engaged by the at least one barb.

33. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling an object, comprising:
a structure having at least one planar surface at a distal end of a distal tip; and
at least one projection formed to extend from the at least one planar surface and configured to engage the object without puncturing through the object when the structure is rotated and enable control over the engaged object.

34. (Currently Amended) A device for grasping tissue and other material, comprising:

a member having a distal tip with a face on a distal end of the distal tip, the face formed perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the member; and

at least one barb projecting at an angle from the face of the member, each at least one barb immovable relative to the face and having a sharp edge configured to insert into the tissue and grasp the tissue without puncturing through the tissue as the member is rotated ~~without puncturing through the tissue~~.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, wherein the at least one barb includes a plurality of barbs formed on the face.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the plurality of barbs are unidirectional with respect to one another.

37. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 34, 35, or 36, wherein the member is tubular and the face is formed on a planar annular surface at the distal end of the distal tip.

38. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 34, 35, or 36, wherein the member is solid.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, 35, or 36, wherein the member is tubular and the face comprises a planar annular surface formed at the distal tip and surrounding a tubular port.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, 35, or 36, wherein the member comprises a cannula.

41. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 40, wherein the face comprises a planar annular surface formed at the distal tip and surrounding a tubular port.

42. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 38, wherein the surface comprises an annular surface formed at the distal tip.

43. (Currently Amended) A tool for manipulating tissue or other material, comprising:

a member having a handle portion and a distal surface at a distal end of the member; and

an engaging device to engage the tissue or other material formed on the distal surface of the member to enable a user to hold and manipulate the tissue or other material, the engaging device configured to engage the tissue or other material without puncturing through the tissue or other material when the member is rotated in a first direction.

44. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 43, wherein the engaging device disengages the tissue or other material when the member is rotated in a second direction.

45. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 43 or 44, wherein the engaging device is formed on a surface of the member to be unidirectional.

46. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 45, wherein the member comprises a cannula.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) A device for engaging tissue and other material, comprising:

an elongate member having a distal tip with a face formed perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the member; and

at least one projection formed to extend from the face, the at least one projection configured to engage the tissue and other material without puncturing through the tissue or other material when the elongate member is moved in a first direction, the at least one projection further configured to be immovable relative to the face.

49. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 48 comprising a plurality of rigid projections.

50. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 48 comprising a plurality of rigid, unidirectional projections.

51. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 48, 49, or 50 wherein the at least one projection is configured to disengage from the tissue or other material when the elongate member is moved in a second direction.

52. (Currently Amended) A device for engaging tissue and other material, comprising:

an elongate member having a distal tip with a face at a distal end of the distal tip;

and

at least one immovable, rigid projection extending from the face on the elongate member and configured to engage tissue or other material without puncturing through the tissue or other material when the elongate member is moved in a first direction.

53. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 52, comprising a plurality of unidirectional projections.

54. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 52 or 53, wherein the tissue or other material is disengaged when the elongate member is moved in a second direction.

55. (Currently Amended) A device for engaging material, comprising:

a tubular member having a longitudinal axial bore to form an opening at a distal end of a distal tip thereof and a planar annular surface surrounding the opening and oriented substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the tubular member; and

at least one immovable, rigid projection formed from material of the annular surface to extend from the annular surface and present a sharp edge at a predetermined angle to the annular surface.

56. (Previously Presented) A device for gasping tissue, comprising:
a tubular member having a distal tip and annular surface surrounding a terminal port; and

a plurality of barbs formed on the annular surface that are unidirectional with respect to one another and projecting at an angle from the annular surface of the tubular member, each barb having a sharp edge configured to insert into the tissue without penetrating through the tissue as the tubular member is rotated about a longitudinal axis.

57. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling an object, comprising:
a structure having at least one planar surface on a distal end of a distal tip; and
at least one projection formed from material of the planar surface to extend from the at least one planar surface and configured to engage the object without puncturing through the object when the structure is rotated ~~and enable control over the engaged object.~~

58. (Currently Amended) A device for engaging tissue and other material, comprising:

an elongate member having a distal end at a distal tip with a face formed on the distal end; and

at least one projection formed from material of the face to extend from the face, the at least one projection configured to engage the tissue and other material without puncturing through the tissue or other material when the elongate member is moved in a first direction, the at least one projection further configured to be immovable relative to the face.

59. (New) A device for grasping tissue, comprising:
a structure having a planar surface formed on a distal end of a distal tip of the structure; and
at least one non-helical barb formed on the planar surface to grasp the tissue as the structure is rotated.

60. (New) A device for grasping tissue, comprising:
a structure having a planar surface formed perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the structure; and
at least one non-helical barb formed on the planar surface to grasp the tissue as the structure is rotated.

61. (New) A device for grasping tissue, comprising:
a structure having a planar face formed on a distal end of the distal tip of the structure and formed perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the structure; and
at least one barb formed on the planar face to be immovable relative to the planar face to grasp the tissue as the structure is rotated.

62. (New) A device for grasping tissue, comprising:
a tubular member having at a distal end of a distal tip an annular planar surface surrounding a terminal port, the annular planar surface formed to be substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the tubular member; and
at least one non-helical barb formed on the annular planar surface to be immovable relative to the annular planar surface and to extend from the annular planar surface to grasp tissue without puncturing through the tissue as the tubular member is rotated.